



Leibniz-Institut für Astrophysik Potsdam

PhD position to study nearby galaxies

We are looking for a PhD student to work at AIP on a project in the field of galaxy evolution, more specifically in “archaeological” studies of galaxies in the nearby universe.

The project aims at reconstructing the stellar content of galaxies from 2-dimensional spectroscopic maps (Integral Field Spectroscopy). Data for starting the study are already available, both from an already observed VLT programme and in the context of the on-going CALIFA survey (<http://www.caha.es/CALIFA>). The necessary activities will involve spectroscopic data reduction, refining an existing method of full spectral fitting as well as preparing and performing further observations. The position offers frequent interaction with international collaborators all over Europe.

The successful candidate will hold a masters degree or equivalent in astrophysics, physics or a related discipline. Prior exposure to data reduction or stellar population synthesis codes will be a strong asset, as will be experience in programming. A demonstrated interest in galaxy evolution is a serious advantage.

The AIP (<http://www.aip.de>) is a foundation according to civil law and is a member of the Leibniz Association. About 100 scientists work on a variety of astrophysical topics covering the full range from solar physics to cosmology. Key topics of AIP are cosmic magnetic fields and extragalactic astrophysics. The AIP has a strong record in the development of instrumentation for 3D-spectroscopy and is a main partner in CALIFA, MUSE@VLT and VIRUS@HET. The institute is located in Potsdam, the state capital of Brandenburg, and in close proximity to the Berlin metropolitan area. UNESCO granted Potsdam World Cultural Heritage status for its ensemble of landscapes, buildings and palaces.

The PhD project will be carried out within the “Galaxies and Quasars” group at AIP, under the co-supervision of Dr. Jakob Walcher and Prof. Lutz Wisotzki. The initial appointment is nominally two years with a possible extension of one year. The salary is based upon the German federal public service scale (TV-L E13/2). The student will be integrated in the structured doctoral program at Potsdam University. The AIP is an equal opportunity employer and as such considers individuals for employment according to their skills, abilities and experiences.

To apply please send a Curriculum Vitae as well as statements on research experience and interests and arrange for two or three letters of reference to be sent to the below submission address. Applications received by Jan 15th 2011 are assured of full consideration, but the position is open until filled. The start date can be as soon as possible.

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